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CHART

AND

EXPLANATORY OUTLINE

REGARDING

81 CITIES IN 24 STATES

WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE

TO THE JEWISH COMMUNAL DEVELOPMENT

BY

STANLEY BERO

NATIONAL ORGANIZER

HEBREW SHELTERING & IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY

HEADQUARTERS

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Study of Cities covered in the U.S. in the interest of the

Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society

By Stanley Nero

NY December 20, 1911.

Name of City	State	Increase of population in ten years	Estimate of Jewish population		Opportunities for immigrants or non-immigrants	Jewish communal activities					Social position occupied by Jews					Nature of cooperation secured			Nature of propaganda raised during trip																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
			Approximate number of families	Climate of opinion in ten years		Social and educational organizations	Religious Synagogue	Religious Society	Reformed or other religious organizations	Business schools	Civic activity	Unemployment	Professions	Ownership of property	Participation in the activities of the community	Regulation of immigration	Cooperation with the government	Participation in the activities of the community	Participation in the activities of the community	Participation in the activities of the community	Participation in the activities of the community																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
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LDOUT BLANK

EXPLANATORY OUTLINE

BY MR. BERO

New York, January 16th, 1912.

Hon. Leon Sanders, President,
Hebrew Sheltering & Immigrant Aid Society,
229 East Broadway, New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I beg to submit herewith an outline explanation of the statistical study made in chart form covering my two trips made through 24 states and 81 cities, in the interest of the Society during the past year.

The results obtained consist of membership secured in 32 cities, committees named in 48 cities, yearly grants guaranteed in 11 cities, and increased yearly appropriations secured in 6 cities. Cities visited for the first time should not only be regarded because of the financial good that has come from them, as here the people have for the first time learned of our work.

I am satisfied that the work done other than of raising money would meet with your appreciation as much as the financial return. This is especially true because the work accomplished is certain to prove of benefit to the immigrant in the interior cities.

It will be a source of gratification to you to learn that a number of our recent members were our former beneficiaries. These admitted the fact without reluctance. On the contrary, they felt a particular pride in assisting it because of their present ability to aid others.

NATURE OF PROPAGANDA CARRIED ON DURING TRIP.

I would bespeak your thanks for the courtesy of the pulpit which was extended to me in 25 cities, and to those that lent me their good offices in the 48 lectures delivered, most of which were illustrated by stereopticon. In this way the people of the interior to whom the question of immigration was foreign, were enabled to learn of the vast scope of our work. Newspaper interviews and comment on our work appeared in 125 papers from Coast to Coast.

Many of these clippings will prove conclusively that their tenor was to create a friendly feeling for the Jewish immigrant on the part of non-Jewish employers. As a result of this, a number of inquiries reached me over the phone in some cities, quite as your office has received letters asking that it furnish immigrant help to fill certain positions. As this organization is not directly engaged in removal work the parties were referred to the Industrial Removal Office.

There were 28 committee meetings, and I felt called upon to write 35 articles for various papers while on the road.

The nature of my talks differed according to the various audiences addressed. The fact, however, that our work appealed equally to the Reformed, Orthodox, Conservative and Radical elements among the Jewish people, proves that your policy is indeed a most liberal one.

JEWISH COMMUNAL ACTIVITIES.

In the 81 cities covered social and educational organizations were, as nearly as I can judge, carried on as follows: Excellent in 4 cities, fair in 13, good in 8, poor in 10, splendid in 4, urgent in 6, and there was no provision at all made in 30 cities. In most cities where the work was necessary, I urged the establishment of such centers, while in cities where the work was carried on already, I found it expedient to make recommendations which were appreciated by the communities. One of the reasons why many of the Jewish immigrants drift away from the cities to which they are directed, is the absence of Jewish Social and educational centers. This is too important to be ignored. Yet it must be said that it is largely due to the credit of the Jewish immigrant of recent years that a number of English reading circles have been inaugurated and that comparatively recent comers are already aiding those that have come after them. These immigrants have interested the older Jewish residents in urging the establishment of English schools. Because of their thirst for knowledge they have made it possible for non-Jewish immigrants as well, to take advantage of the schools inaugurated because of their initiative of these, the native-born are likewise making use.

In the cities visited there are 60 Reformed, 134 Orthodox and 28 Conservative Congregations, and in 5 cities there are no congregations at all. Provision for Hebrew education exists in 63 cities, and none at all in 18 cities. I may add that the Orthodox Congregations, as well as the Hebrew Schools are improving in character. Many of the

Orthodox Congregations are beginning to feel the need of having English speaking teachers, as well as lecturers. They realize that the hold of both upon the younger generation can be retained only in that way. The dietary laws could be observed in 73 cities; in 8 there is no provision for Kosher living.

Fraternal organizations exist in 59 cities; in 34 cities there was room for societies of this character. In 5 cities no organizations exist. The effectiveness of such organizations requires no comment apart from the mention of the educational and practical benefits that might result from their inauguration.

Of benevolent organizations there were 136 aid societies, varying in kind, 13 federated charities. Only in 7 cities no charities exist, but it is pleasant to add there is no need of any. Of the 137, some of the societies were organizations in name only. They were very seldom called upon to render any aid to the residents and only once in a while were they called on to aid a stranger. In 9 cities I had occasion to urge and outline plans for the purpose of bringing about federated charities. My object in helping them in that direction was to bring about a better understanding on the part of the various elements in the community. Incidentally, it was my purpose to assure a more wholesome co-operation in that way for national institutions seeking their aid.

INFORMATION BUREAU.

The tabulated blanks covering information of many sorts filled out and now in possession of your office, show, outside of printed queries carefully answered, also important notes. The last in particular are worthy of special study. In my blanks, for instance, for certain cities, I showed intermarriages due to lack of Jewish young men or Jewish young women of proper ages. In one city in Montana for instance, out of 60 families, 38 members of the said families had intermarried simply because they were too far removed from other Jewish communities. The city had not attracted any additional Jewish population for many years. It had in fact lost by death and removal many of the foremost Jewish residents. I found similar conditions existing in less grave proportion in various other parts of the country. What is certain is that immigration has in many instances prevented the spread of intermarriage.

Among the 81 cities mentioned where Jewish population has

increased within the last ten years from 200 to 800 per cent. there is hardly one city where the general economic conditions are not better than they were prior to this influx of Jewish population. Of the total number only one city shows a decrease. When the percentage of Jewish people is nil, the prospects of development for the time being seems to be meagre.

The growth of population in ten years in the 81 cities enumerated shows an increase of from 100 per cent. to 200 per cent. The tables showing an increase of Jewish population, for a like period marks a growth of from 200 per cent. to 800 per cent. With all that the proportion of Jews as compared with the entire population, does not indicate as large a growth as that of the general increase. This simply proves that ten years ago the number of Jewish people in most of the cities was small. This increase is due largely to the movement on their part to settle in the interior. The increased Jewish immigration into the cities of the interior is shown by the official reports of port towns where the immigrant's destination is given.

It is worthy of note that the social and economic status of recent Jewish immigrants of the interior is quite high. This proves them to be a wholesome addition to the respective cities in which they settle.

I found that 61 were gaining in Jewish population right along and that 26 showed no marked increase of that character. 49 cities out of the 81 mentioned were attracting Jewish artisans, while 32 showed no increase of that kind simply because they were not industrial centers.

The opportunities for immigrants and non-immigrants as measured by certain standards including the cost of living, wages, condition of health, climate, educational facilities, etc., prove that three of the cities offer excellent opportunities, 25 fair prospects, 19 good, and three cities offer no opportunities whatsoever, while 31 cities presented meagre advantages.

SOCIAL POSITION OCCUPIED BY JEWS.

In the 81 cities enumerated on the chart the social position occupied by the Jew is decidedly worth while noting in detail. Chicago was omitted because it is too large a city to get reliable figures. In the remaining 80 cities 156 Jewish men were identified in a civic way with the judiciary, city, state or federal government.

In the various professions such as those of the architect, doctor, druggist, engineer, lawyer and teacher, 1,981 Jews were represented. It is significant that the rank and file of Jewish professional men recruited is mainly from immigrant families. This simply proves that the children of the wealthier and native-born have already a field to enter when old enough. The children of the poorer are compelled to create a social position for themselves, as the latter depend largely upon their own energy, they in many instances make their mark.

In 54 cities the tabulation shows 170 factories owned by Jews. While the needle industry was for many years the chief one with which they were identified, in recent years a departure from it is noted by their entrance into a more diversified field.

CONSTRUCTIVE SOCIAL WORK.

I had occasion to review local social work in 7 cities and to make surveys that proved of value to 8 cities. In each case my action was prompted by a desire to point out new ways and fields of work, thus to mould the immigrant population speedily into acceptable American citizens.

PANAMA OPENING.

In view of the fact that Panama's Opening would be certain largely to divert the stream of immigration from existing ports, I made it a point in 9 cities which are liable to be thus affected, to lay special emphasis upon the character of our work.

San Francisco, for instance, will, upon the completion of the Panama Canal, be reached by steamer from Europe in fifteen days and nine hours. The cost of transportation will be approximately \$10.00 more than through the eastern ports. While it is a matter of four years hence, still, being in San Francisco, I felt that as your representative it is my duty to prepare the Jewish community there in such a way that they may be able to handle the problem intelligently when it becomes theirs. My outline of the plan presented to some of the most influential men in San Francisco, covered a detail of the manner in which our work is being done. It likewise showed how they may be able to utilize the immigrant when they get him, so that he properly guided, might assure the highest expectancy for his own and the state's good.

As a result of this plan considerable correspondence between our office and San Francisco has followed. Several gentlemen from that city, I understand, have visited our institution for the purpose of studying our system so as to be able when time calls to adopt it.

CONCLUSION.

I had occasion to write letters to co-operating societies of a national character, both in New York and elsewhere advising them of things important for them to know.

My visits in various cities in the interior, did, it seems to me, considerable good. It not alone had the purpose of showing convincingly to my audiences the manifold activities which we have lately added to our work, but likewise to prove to them that hardly a month passes that some new feature does not press itself upon our attention.

It has been my pleasant task, as your representative, from coast to coast, in a humble way, to help awaken in our Americanized brethren a fuller realization of their duties toward the immigrant. It is now generally believed that the immigrant must be given intelligent guidance in order that he may become a desirable factor in our body politic.

Respectfully submitted,

STANLEY BERO.



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